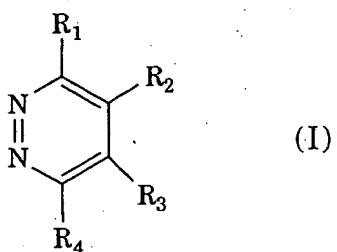


ABSTRACT

Disclosed are compounds of the formula (I) and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof:



wherein

10 R₁ is a halogen, or an oxygen linked leaving group including an aromatic ether, an alkyl sulfonate, an aryl sulfonate, an alkyl phosphonate, an aryl phosphonate, an alkyl phosphate or aryl phosphate;

15 R₂ is COOR₅, C(=O)NH(CHR₅)_m-COOR₅, NH(CHR₅)_mCON(R₅)R₆, C(=O)N(R₅)R₆ or NH(CHR₅)_mOH;

15 R₃ is H or alkyl;

15 R₄ is H, substituted or unsubstituted aryl, heteroaryl or alkyl;

20 R₅ and R₆ are independently H, lower alkyl, aryl, hydroxy alkyl, amino alkyl, heteroaryl, lower alkylene-aryl, lower alkylene-heteroaryl or lower cycloalkyl; and m = 0-6; pharmaceutical compositions containing the compounds; and a method for inhibiting interleukin-1 β protease activity in a mammal utilizing the compounds and compositions.